

Dear Jerry,

Enclosed are the pages of Sylvia's will that Greg left in an envelope for McKnight.

He'd gotten them from Greg's sister before she went to LA for the reading of the will Greg left. McKnight thinks she may have found the envelope in his Alexandria home. If this is true he had to have done this long, long before he killed himself. Perhaps bearing on this, what I'd heard of the notes he left in LA did not include one left to McKnight.

You can draw your own conclusions but my reading of her provisions raises questions in my mind about Sylvia's judgement, not Greg's. I have reasons you can't perceive, I think, but I'm not trying to argue with you and I'm not taking more time than I think trying to be helpful to Roger requires.

What I do suggest is two things, first that you read this and ask yourself what legitimate basis you think Roger has for contesting it together with what he has said about it and what did not say, and whether you can detect anything that can have triggered him to do what he's done and to have the problems I think he has reflected.

What Sylvia did is really awful to Roger. Not only did she with exceptional exolitiveness leave it all to Greg and for him to dispose of in any way he saw fit, she did not even have Roger as secondary in this.

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This had to be a heavy blow to him and it ~~should have been~~.

Roger attributed her changing her will to pressure from a niece's greedy husband. I do not read this that way and I do interpret it as meaning that when she drafted it or used her words that the lawyer used, she was really was anti-Roger. I have trouble believing that Roger would have done anything to justify this. The one thing I can think of is that she was put out and put off by his failure to do his book. I'm sure she wanted it done, as I also did.

From the first he stressed to me her betrayal of their friendship and of their or his trust. I then agreed, I continued to agree and I still feel he was right to feel as he did. The only question in my mind is why she did. There is too much that I do not know for me to hazard any other guess.

Sylvia had an exceptional intelligence. She was the most lucid and articulate of people and especially when she was angry her writing was magnificent. But as I'm sure I've indicated earlier, she was capable of and demonstrated the kind of passion that interfered with the judgement one could have expected of one with her intelligence.

As I've asked before, I hope you will think this through and ask yourself if the Roger of recent weeks is the Roger you've know, whether what he has been saying and doing is justified on the basis of what you know to be factually correct, including the enclosed, and if you agree he has problems and needs help, can find some way of helping him.

Sincerely,

Harold
3/21/91

(INHERITED)
1/89

Excerpt
Last Will + Testament
Sylvia McLaughlin 9/18/85

SEVENTH: I hereby give, devise and bequeath all of my books, files, manuscripts, private papers, letter, notes and documents on the assassination of President Kennedy and the Warren Report to my friend and colleague, Gregory Stone, of 2349 North Early Street, Alexandria, Virginia, if he survives me or to Dr. Phillip Melanson of South Eastern Massachusetts University if the said Gregory Stone shall predecease me. I further bequeath to him my two-drawer wood file cabinet in which I store a portion of these materials. It is my intention that he both preserve and protect the body of my work in this field, and use it to advance the state of existing knowledge and understanding of the case. Without limiting the absoluteness of this bequest, it is my wish that either during his lifetime or upon his death he place my library and papers dealing with the assassination in a university library or public archive of his choosing where, within his sole discretion and judgment, they may best be preserved as an intact collection and made available to future scholars. I also give, devise and bequeath to the said Gregory Stone all of my ownership, right, title and interest in and to my copyrights, royalty agreements, manuscripts, letters, notes and literary property of which I am the author, including the proceeds thereof from any source whatsoever,

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the right to renewal, and any claims or causes of action which may appertain thereto for infringement, plagiarism or breach of contract. I authorize him to complete and publish any of my unpublished works, manuscripts, papers and writings, either privately or for public sale, and I bequeath to him any profit that may be derived from such publication. Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, in the event that I shall have previously during my lifetime disposed of all or any lesser portion of any or all of the manuscripts and other materials hereinabove in this paragraph specified, then such prior disposition and provision shall supersede and take precedence over this paragraph, but only as to so much or so many of the materials as I shall have specifically previously disposed of and the rest and remainder thereof I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the said Gregory Stone (or the said Dr. Phillip Melanson, as the case may be) as herein provided. If and only if the said Gregory Stone shall receive any documents or materials of whatsoever kind or nature under the provisions of this paragraph, then I also hereby give, devise and bequeath to him the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars. I hope this will help defray any incidental expenses he shall or may incur in the handling of this material but, if he receives the sum in accordance

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with the previous sentence hereof, I give it to him outright
and without limitation and without any requirement that he
account for its use or that he use it in any particular
manner or for any particular purpose.